

head and cheeks are whitish for the most part: the ceral and gular bristles, and those over the brows, pure black, as also a moustache or stripe backwards from the gape: bill and talons seemingly horn-yellow; and toes leaden-blue.

Dimensions.

	<i>feet. inch.</i>
Tip of bill to tip of tail, ...	3 10
Bill, length of, ...	0 4
Ditto basal height,.....	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto basal breadth,.....	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Expanse of wings,.....	7 6
Tarsus, ...	0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Central toe, ...	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto talon, ...	0 1 $\frac{3}{8}$

Sex unknown.

P. S. Since writing the above description, it has been suggested to me by Dr. CAMPBELL, that I have overlooked an account of the Himálayan Vulture-Eagle, by Lieut. HUTTON, in the 34th No. of the Journal. Adverting to that account, I find no reason to alter my own, or to retract the opinion therein stated, that the Indian *Gypaëtos* is merely a variety of the single known species, which is common to Europe, Africa, and Asia. Lieut. HUTTON gives his bird the same length as mine nearly, or 3 feet 11 inches; but he makes the expanse of its wings 9 feet 6 inches. Is there not here some undue allowance for shrinking in his 'old and mutilated' specimen? The wings of his bird agree very closely with mine in respect to the relative size of the prime quills: but I still think that this point wants ascertainment, by reference to several mature specimens in known full plumage. Again, I would reiterate, that differences of colour are of no importance: my bird has no dark mark across the head.

V.—Red-billed *Erolia*. By the same.

[Regarding the present paper, it is our duty to bring forward the following facts. In November, 1829, Mr. HODGSON sent to the Asiatic Society (presented and acknowledged, in the Proceedings of January, 1830,) this description, and a coloured drawing of natural size of a Wader, which he called "the red-billed *Erolia*." It accompanied several other similar notices, which are published in the second part of the 18th volume of the Asiatic Researches. But by some accident, the *Erolia* seems to have been omitted and mislaid, nor can it be found among the papers handed over to ourselves, in 1831, by the late Mr. CALDER, who had previously conducted the publication of the Physical Researches. The bird is a great curiosity, and has been very recently made known to the public

at home by Mr. GOULD as his discovery, although it is evident, that Mr. HODGSON's description and drawing were produced two years before. Mr. HODGSON has only now had an opportunity of seeing the last volume of the *Researches*, which has prevented his bringing the unfortunate omission to our notice at an earlier period.—ED.]

Ordo GRALLATORES—Fam. CHARADRIADÆ—Genus *Erolia*.—Species
New red-billed EROLIA.

As in the grallatorial order the Ibis links together the families of the Ardeidæ and of the Scolopacidæ, so that remarkable bird which I am now about to describe, admirably connects the latter family with that of the Charadriadæ. It constitutes besides a sort of central step in the long gradation, from the most typical to the most aberrant genera of the order of Waders—from those which have a great length of legs, as well as of bill, to those which are deficient in respect to the length of both. If to these interesting peculiarities belonging to our bird, we add that the genus has been but recently established, and that only one species is known, it will readily be allowed, our bird (which is moreover a new species) is entitled to a full and minute description.

Without objecting to the generic character, as established by VIEILLLOT, I shall take the liberty to dilate it as follows :

Bill, long, slender, weak, but not soft ; well arched ; upper mandible, rounded at the base ; grooved for $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of its length ; smooth and scarcely dilated or obtuse at its tip : lower mandible, rather shorter than the upper.

Nostrils, wide linear ; placed in the membranous part of the groove of the bill, and near its base ; shaded above and behind by the membrane ; open. Face entirely clothed with feathers. Legs rather short, and having but little of the thighs denuded. Feet cursorial. Toes three, short ; the outer connected with the central by a crescented membrane as far as the first joint : inner scarcely connected at the base ; margins of the toes with the skin subdilated ; nails short, obtuse, rounded.

Wings elongated, but not acuminate ; longest flags nearly equal to greatest quills ; first quill longest*. Tail shortest ; even ; 12 feathers. In further illustration of the characters of this bird, I may add, that the bill bears the strictest essential resemblance to that of the Curlew, scarcely differing from it at all, being rather more pointed or less obtuse at the tip, and somewhat more decidedly arched throughout. I speak thus from a comparison of the bills of three species of Curlew (which are now before me), with that of the bird in question :

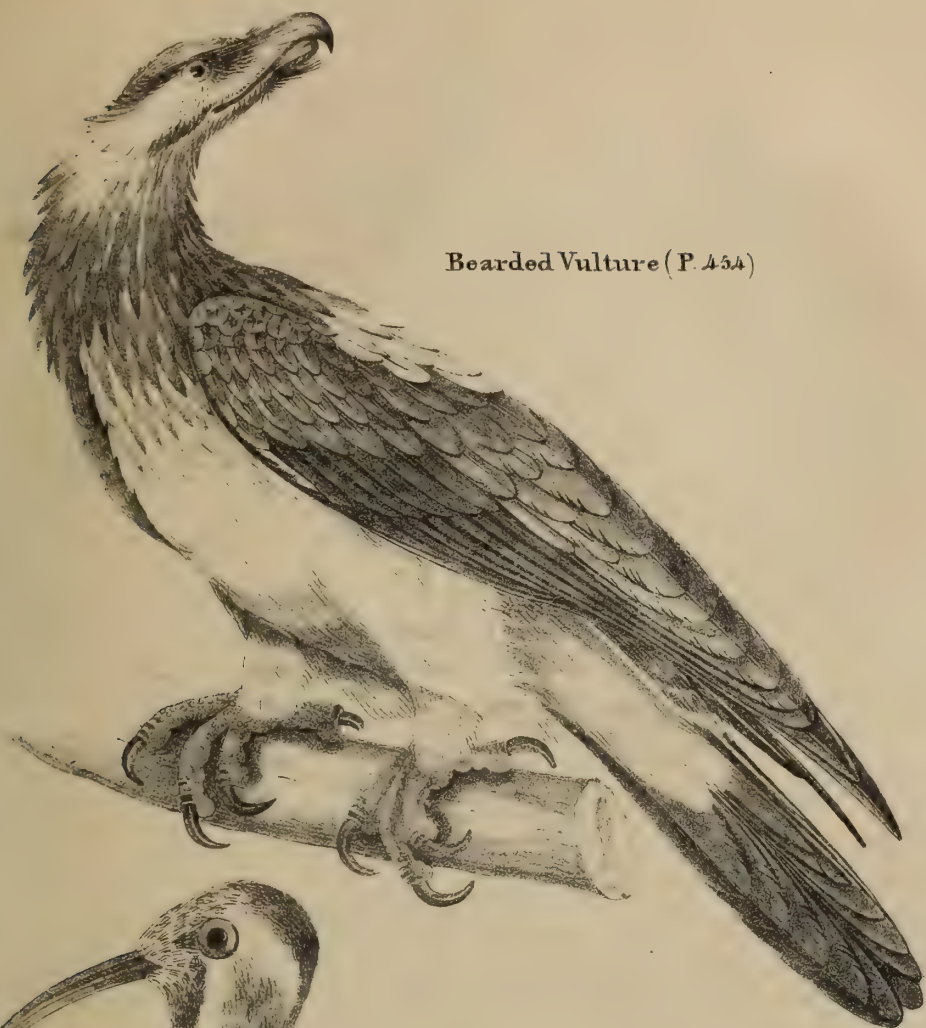
* Since found to be a mistake, by comparison of all the specimens : but the first quill is not a *sixteenth* of an inch less than the second and third.—Note of 1835.

and had I not adverted to the generic character of the Curlew as stated in SHAW'S Zoology, I should have conceived that the bill of our bird could not be more accurately characterised than by simply likening it to the Curlew's. SHAW, however, says, the Curlew's bill is long in the *superlative* degree, has its tip *dilated*, and the nostrils placed in a *short* groove.

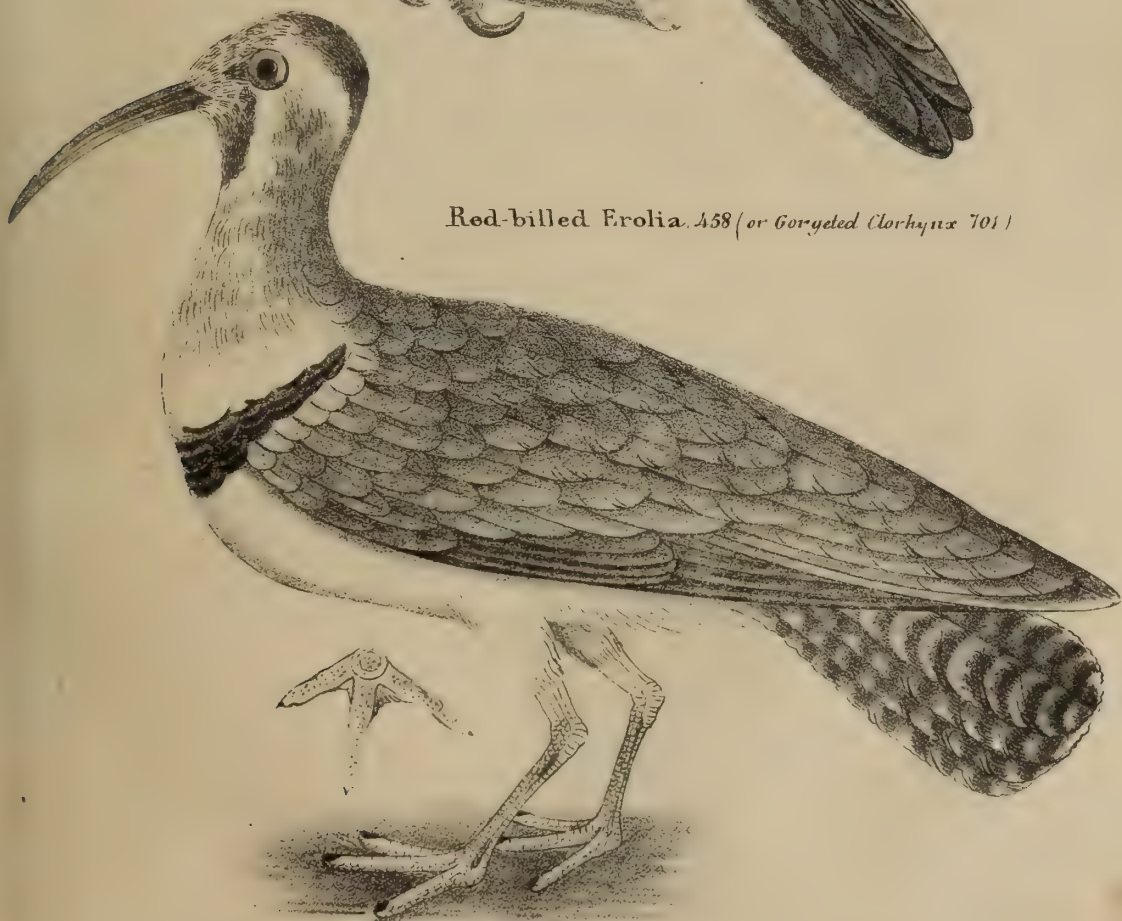
Now I have only to say that of my three species, that emphatically called the long-billed is alone remarkable (considering what family these birds belong to) for length of bill ; that all three have bills, which, without being quite so thick at the base as the Ibis' beak, have yet some thickness there, which grows gradually and uniformly less towards their tips ; that their tips are scarce sensibly dilated ; that their nostrils are placed in a groove which runs fully $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the length of the bill, although it is only towards the base or around the opening of the nostrils, that the sulcation is broad or membranous ; and that lastly, all these peculiarities, which to my apprehension belong to the bill of the Curlew, belong likewise to that of the *Erolia*.

But for the decidedly Charadriadic character of its feet, not only its long slender bill, but its general appearance, figure, and manners would dispose us to range the *Erolia* with the family comprising the Curlew, Godwit, and Avocet ; and indeed, embracing almost all the long feeble-billed Waders.

Few genera of the grallatorial order have legs so short or thighs so little naked as those of the *Erolia* : and in respect to the brevity of its toes and nails, still fewer even of the Charadriadic family of the order, and none I believe of the Scolopaceous family, match it. Its wings and tail have no peculiarity, and both are proportioned pretty much as in the Curlews, Avocets, and Godwits. The new species now before me (and which I propose should be called the red-billed) measures nearly one foot five inches from tip of bill to tip of tail, being in fact about the size and weight of the common Avocet. The particulars of its size, proportions, and weight are given in the sequel ; meanwhile, I proceed to the description of its plumage. The whole of the head above and below, as far as the eyes, hind part likewise of the *crown* of the head, the chin and the throat, black, mixed with grey about the base of the bill ; and the whole black space margined towards the body with white : rest of the body above, including the back parts of the head, the neck, wings, and tail, full ashy blue : great quills and false wing, dusky blue, and a large irregular bar of white across the wings : upper tail coverts, black, with an ashy powder : tail feathers, cross-barred with dusky, in the manner of the Curlews ; and all the feathers, save the two centrals, largely tipped with black ;



Bearded Vulture (P. 454)



Red-billed Frolia. 458 (or Gorged Clorhynx 701)